

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /067 W
-----028983 080838Z /10

R 071105Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5144
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1342

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SO, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PLANE REPORTEDLY GROUNDED IN MOGADISCIO

REF: STATE 185981

1. INCIDENT DESCRIBED REFTEL INDICATES EXTREME SUSPICION
OF SOMALI GOVERNMENT OF AIRCRAFT ENTERING OR FLYING ADJACENT TO
SOMALI AIR SPACE DURING PRESENT OGADEN CRISIS. SOVIET AIRCRAFT
ON AUGUST 6 WAS ALSO VICTIM OF SOMALI SUSPICION AND IS STILL
GROUNDED AT MOGADISCIO AIRPORT.

2. GROUNDING OCCURRED AUGUST 6 WHEN SOVIET CARGO AIRCRAFT
ARRIVED MOGADISCIO AIRPORT AND REQUESTED REFUELING FOR
ONWARD FLIGHT TO UGANDA. SOMALI AIRPORT AUTHORITIES TOLD
SOVIET CREW CHIEF HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO ENTER SOMALI AIRSPACE
AND LAND MOGADISCIO. RUSSIAN PILOT TOLD THEM SOVIET AIRCRAFT
WAS AEROFLOT FLIGHT AND CLEARANCES HAD BEEN OBTAINED
THROUGH AEROFLOT OFFICE MOGADISCIO. SOMALI CIVIL AVIATION
AUTHORITIES DENIED IT AND DEMANDED TO SEE CARGO. SOVIET
PILOT REFUSED TO PERMIT SOMALIS TO INSPECT CARGO AND
SOMALI OFFICIALS SUMMONED SOMALI MILITARY OFFICIALS, WHO
ALSO INSISTED SOVIET PLANE HAD NO PERMISSION TO OVERFLY
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SOMALIA OR REFUEL IN MOGADISCIO. THEY ALSO DEMANDED TO SEE
CARGO AND WERE REFUSED. SOMALI AUTHORITIES TOLD SOVIET PILOT
THAT CREW WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO DEPART UNTIL CARGO WAS
EXAMINED. SOVIET AMBASSADOR ALSO VISITED AIRPORT TO TRY
TO RESOLVE PROBLEM. AS OF MORNING AUGUST 7 PLANE STILL REMAINS
ON TARMAC AT MOGADISCIO AIRPORT, WHICH APPEARS TO BE UNDER
MORE STRICT SECURITY GUARD.

3. SOMALI CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES BELIEVE SOVIET AIRCRAFT CONTINS MILITARY SUPPLIES FOR ETHIOPIA. WE INFORMED BY LOCAL SOURCE THAT SOMALIS HAD BEEN SUSPICIOUS FOR SOME TIME THAT SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS ARE DESTINED FOR ETHIOPIA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MIG-21 AIRCRAFT BASED AT BERBERA AIR STRIP ARE NOW PARTOLLING SOMALI COAST TO INTERDICT OVERFLIGHTS DESTINED FOR ETHIOPIA. SOMALIS APPARENTLY SUSPECT SOME AIRCRAFT ARE FLYING SOUTH ALONG SOMALI COAST THEN TURNING WEST IN KISMAYO REGION FOR ONWARD FLIGHT TO ADDIS ABABA.

4. SOVIET AIRCRAFT DETAINED AUGUST 6 HAD PREVIOUSLY LANDED AT ADEN. WE BELIEVE THAT IF SOVIET PLANE WAS TRULY ADDIS-BOUND, IT WOULD HAVE ENTERED ETHIOPIA NORTH OF DJIBOUTI AFTER OVERFLYING RED SEA. SOMALI SUSPICIONS THAT PLANE WAS BOUND FOR ADDIS ABABA SEEM TO US FAR FETCHED BUT ILLUSTRATE CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE WHICH IS INFLECTING MANY SOMALIS REGARDING SOVIET UNION.

5. IN COMMENTING ON THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT INCIDENT, SOMALI COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS AT MOGADISCIO AIRPORT TOWER TOLD EMBASSY SOURCE THAT EARLIER ON AUGUST 6 TOWER HAD ALSO CONTACTED UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT WHICH HAD ENTERED SOMALI AIRSPACE AND CLAIMED IT WAS BOUND FOR DENYA. PILOT TOLD TOWER THAT FLIGHT CLEARANCES HAD BEEN OBTAINED THROUGH AMERICAN CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBASSY NAIROBI AND THAT PILOT WOULD CHECK WITH EMBASSY TO BE SURE THAT CLEARANCES WERE IN ORDER. BY TIME DISCUSSION ENDED, AIRCRAFT WAS OUT OF REACH AND ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS FLIGHT. SOMALI TOWER OFFICIALS SUSPECTED THAT DESPITE PILOT'S AMERICAN ACCENT, AIRCRAFT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOVIET CARGO FLIGHT BOUND FOR ADDIS ABABA AND SEEKING TO EVADE SOMALI CONTROL. C-141 MAY THUS HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN AIRPORT OFFICIALS' TOUGHNESS WITH SUBSEQUENT SOVIET PLANE.

6. ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS C-141 CREW FLYING FROM TEHRAN TO MOMBASA MIGHT PROVIDE REGARDING CONVERSATION FROM MOGADISCIO RADIO TOWER WOULD BE USEFUL, NOT BECAUSE WE INTEND TO PURSUE THIS MATTER BUT BECAUSE IT DOES GIVE US OPPORTUNITY TO VERIFY ACCURACY OF ONE OF OUR LOCAL SOURCES. LOUGHRAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT DETENTION, ARMS SMUGGLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOGADI01342
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770284-0433
Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770887/aaaacwag.tel
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Litigation History:
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